

REMARKS

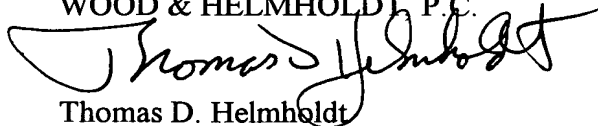
After entry of this Amendment, claims 1 - 7 and 9 - 20 remain pending in the present case. The Examiner states that the newly submitted claims 21 - 28 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the reasons that independent claims 21 and 27 are generic and similar forms of those claims were rejected in earlier office actions. The earlier rejections to which the Examiner refers were traversed and the arguments in subsequent amendments have not been fully addressed by the Examiner. However, to proceed with prosecution of this case, claims 21 - 28 have been cancelled without prejudice to the filing of a Continuation application. The allowance of claims 1 - 7 and 9 - 20 is noted. (Claim 8 was previously cancelled.)

It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment traverses and overcomes all of the Examiner's objections and rejections to the application as originally filed. It is further submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment does not add any new subject matter to the application. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment places the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be expedited by way of an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG, BASILE, HANLON, MacFARLANE,
WOOD & HELMHOLDT, P.C.



Thomas D. Helmholdt
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 33181
(248) 649-3333

3001 West Big Beaver Rd., Suite 624
Troy, Michigan 48084-3107
Dated: May 3, 2004
TDH/DPC/dge